

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated April 14, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of June 11, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. Examiner's withdrawal of the finality of the previous Office Action is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-6, 10-16, and 19-21 are currently pending.

Claim 21 has been amended to correct certain informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,734,985 to Ochiai (*hereinafter*, "Ochiai") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0116480 to Muto (*hereinafter*, "Muto"). Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai and Muto in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,064,849 to Nishikawa et al. (*hereinafter*, "Nishikawa"). Claims 5-6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai and Muto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,033 to Bourbonnais et al. (*hereinafter*, "Bourbonnais"). Claims 7-10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai and Muto in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 10289070 A (*hereinafter*, "Hiroshi"). Claims 12 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai and Muto in view of Hiroshi, Bourbonnais, and Nishikawa. In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

By way of review, the subject application is directed to a system and method for providing continuous feedback from a document processing device, such as an embodiment inclusive of a printing system. The system addresses several situations resultant from evolution of document processing devices from the capabilities of earlier systems. Earlier systems were relegated to simple communications with devices, such as print spoolers. A print job has relatively few status commands. Status situations include messages such as "printing," "waiting," "out of paper," and "job complete." Many systems employed an operating system utility to monitor and report printer activity. More recently, document processing devices have become substantially more sophisticated. Multifunction peripherals are increasingly popular. Such devices include several capabilities, such a printing, scanning, faxing and e-mailing. Each

of these functions can have frequent and varied status messages. These include messages such as those relating to dialing, busy signal and retrying. Control or interaction with devices such as multifunction peripherals can be relatively complex, and is extremely specific to a particular device or manufacturer. Thus, interface is best achieved in a device driver, often provided by a device supplier or manufacturer, rather than a generic device or spooler portal as might be provide by an operating system.

Several concerns result when status reporting is handled at the driver level. One concern is that a volume of network traffic associated with regular status reporting relative to a number of workstations and document processing devices. A second concern is that status messages will not be compatible with a form expected or desired by a particular workstation on which a driver is installed.

The system and method of the subject application are particularly suited to an embodiment for secure, controlled reporting of machine status in accordance with particular needs associated with various networked clients of the document processing device. In this fashion, the device is preset with which messages are desired, when such messages should be delivered and a form format for the messages with is compatible with a particular device and are uniformly delivered to end users, irrespective of machine make or manufacturer. These settings allow the document processing device to push customized, compatible status messages at selected timing to each of a plurality of workstations. To accomplish the forgoing, a status message is received from a spooler and a signal is received from an image output system which is coupled to the spooler. Registration data is also received from each of a plurality of associated network clients at a spooler feedback component associated with the spooler. The registration data includes data representative of a request for transmission of status messages for communication to the network clients. A job state message is sent to a network client, wherein the job state message at least one of a status message and signal. The job state message is translated to a text message content format compatible with a text message content format pre-associated with each of a plurality of different network clients. The system and method periodically push each translated job state messages to at least one corresponding network client of the plurality of associated network clients in accordance with received registration data. The system and method delay sending the job state message for a first time period and when a second job state message is received before the first time period expires. The system and method also

monitors a data volume on the associated network and delays sending the job state message when a second job state message is received delays a second time period in accordance with an output of the network traffic monitoring step. Thus, devices on a data network will communicate with uniform message content, irrespective of make and manufacturer. Users will be provided with uniform messages, therefore lessening chances for confusion or error in operation or monitoring of network devices.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner places principal reliance on the teachings of Ochiai and Muto. Prior to amendment, the Examiner concluded that all limitations of the base claims were found in Ochiai. Ochiai is directed to a printer status reporting system wherein a workstation is registered with a device for status reporting in accordance with selected reporting parameters. The Examiner concluded that Ochiai taught all elements of the base claims except for translation of a status message.

Amendment to each of independent claims 1, 12 and 21 has been made, as discussed during the interview, to further emphasize the novel distinctions over the art of record. The amendments include limitations relative to adjustment of status message reporting relative to network activity. This is far removed from the teachings of Ochiai, in which message timing is dictated during device registration. These limitations are also not found in the teachings of Muto, which is cited as teaching translation of network messages.

As to the remaining applied art of record, Nishikawa is cited as teaching a detection of a native language for a network client, and fails to teach the novel aspects of the amended claims noted above. The same is true for Bourbannis, cited for teaching delivery of only a selected job state message to a client; and Hiroshi, cited as teaching a means adapted for delaying a message for a fixed time period when there is a fixed amount of time to transmit a message.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments and in furtherance of the discussions completed in the interview, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/31366.

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Respectfully submitted,



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